

• Abroad •

Moscow, U. S. S. R. An analysis made by Lucien Laurat of the French fortnightly, *Est et Ouest*, helps to explain how some of the triumphs of the Soviet economy are achieved. In the six years 1953-59, according to the official Soviet statistics, Soviet production of meat was up 148 per cent; of butter, 174 per cent; and of milk, 495 per cent. A remarkable enough showing from any point of view! But a real Communist miracle, when placed against other columns of the same official statistics which indicate that cattle increased only 25 per cent and hogs 70 per cent during these same years when meat production went up 2½ times; and that the number of cows expanded, in all, just 37 per cent while butter tripled and milk sextupled.

Havana, Cuba. The intervention of Chinese Communist agents in Cuban affairs is becoming more evident and more effective. A staff of thirty operates out of a cover-office opened under the name of the Hsinhua (New China) News Agency—whose sole commercial client is the Cuban Communist daily, *Hoy*. During the past year, Cuban Communists and fellow travelers (e.g., Party leaders Vilfredo Velasquez and Juan Marinello; the tennis player, G. Girdo; a woman's delegation headed by Castro's friend and aide, Violeta Casals) have visited Peiping. Peiping exerts a special leverage in Cuba through the Chinese colony of about 35,000—25,000 of them agricultural workers involved in the land expropriations. Castro is a close and successful student of Mao Tse-tung's doctrine of guerrilla warfare. Peiping's moves in Cuba are only one part of its stepped-up Latin American campaign. Eight years ago, the former Comintern official, Eudocio Ravines, explained in *The Yenan Way* how the Communist high command had decided that Latin America was destined to follow the Chinese path to the Revolution. Current operations in the Caribbean are boldly advancing along the Maoist strategic line.

Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Frondizi regime, judged to be on the ropes six months ago, is ending the year with something of a comeback. The Economics Minister, Alvo Alsogaray, has managed to win popular support for his austerity program. Astute tactics and a timely concession to the railway workers split the labor front and broke the general strike called by the Peronist-Communist combine. President Frondizi is maneuvering to legalize the Communist Party, and seems to have kept the backing of the Army. He is now thought to have a good chance of getting a majority in the parliamentary elections scheduled for March.

Baghdad, Iraq. With national elections promised (though far from certain) next year, the formless chaos of post-revolutionary Iraqi politics seems to be crystallizing into Communist and anti-Communist groupings. In the student elections at the end of November, the Communists won a

smashing 75 per cent victory for their United Democratic slate. However, for the first time there was an anti-Communist "United Student Front" in which Iraqi nationalists, pro-Nasserites and left-wing Ba'athists joined to win almost all the minority vote. A new decentralized licensing law has operated to break Communist control of many peasant associations. The fanatic killer, Colonel Mahdawi, head of the People's Court, continues to rant for the Communists. But General Abdi, the military Governor-General, has blocked Communist demands for revival of the people's militia. Kassem, balancing both Mahdawi and Abdi within his regime, still pursues the ambiguous course that he has followed since the almost successful attempt to assassinate him early in October.



Carrefour
"When I think that
my country voted
with yours against
the French atom
bomb!"

Trieste, Italy. Many of the arms destined for the Algerian FLN are routed from the Soviet zone (usually Czechoslovakia) through Yugoslavia, into the Yugoslav zone of Trieste and thence into ships loaded in the Trieste harbor—which is in the Italian zone, but to which the Yugoslavs are granted access under the 1954 treaty. The crates of small arms, machine guns and ammunition are often labelled "Camping Equipment," and covered by tent canvas. The ships sail to Tunis. On unloading, the arms make their way, under the benevolently shut eye of President Habib Bourguiba (President Eisenhower's recent host), to the Tunisian bases of the Algerian rebels and are soon put to work killing the soldiers of our ally, France.

Riga, Latvia. Analysis of the dialectical double-talk used to justify the ousting of the Latvian Premier (Latsis) and the demotion of the Party Secretary (Kalnberzin) shows that they—and the Latvian Party Committee under their leadership—had been guilty of the unforgivable sin of "nationalism." In disputes with Moscow authorities over the past year, they had put Latvia's economic needs over those of the Soviet Empire (they stopped all production at one factory, because most finished goods were being shipped to Russia), and had yielded to pressures of cultural and political nationalism provoked by Moscow's Russification policy. Within recent months, Party officials in the Turkmen, Uzbek, Kazakh and Azerbaijan Republics have also been purged for—as Moscow sees it—putting national over Soviet interests.

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